

PATENT APPLICATION  
DOCKET NO. L7082-0001

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. The presently pending claims are claims 1-9. Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the limitation "nodule is shaped to collect shaving residuals is indefinite because it does not define a definite structure. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 4 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The shape of the nodule includes an indentation for which shaving residuals may collect. The shaving residuals may collect when the nut is twisted on the bolt, thereby allowing the shaving residuals to fall into the nodule.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 248,975 to Wootten (Wootten). The Examiner stated that Wootten disclose the basic lock nut structure with a locking ring positioned in a recess in the nut. The Examiner also stated that the locking ring "A" includes plural nodules "a4" that have a bowl shape.

In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to better differentiate Applicant's invention from the cited reference. Claims 2 and 5 depend from amended independent claim 1 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Additionally, claims 7 and 8 depend from amended independent claim 6 and recite additional

PATENT APPLICATION  
DOCKET NO. L7082-0001

limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 6. Wootten discloses a nut lock which includes a locking ring with a plurality of nodules. The nodules are located within notches in the body of the nut.

The Applicant's invention, on the other hand, includes a locking ring which has a bowl-shaped lug having a *hollowed out indentation*. The hollowed out indentation is shaped to gather shavings within the hollowed out indentation. Wootten does not teach or suggest collecting any shavings within the lug. The lug in Wootten does not include an area for collecting shavings. In addition, Wootten does not discuss the problems associated with shavings residing in the threaded portion of the nut body or the bolt. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9 is respectfully requested.

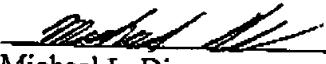
The Examiner stated that claims 3, 4, and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 6. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 3, 4, and 8 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-9.

PATENT APPLICATION  
DOCKET NO. L7082-0001

Respectfully submitted,

  
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